<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

This Amendment responds to the office action dated August 5, 2008.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi). Claim 1 is

independent. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 are dependent on claim 1 and comprise all the elements

therein by dependence.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Takahashi teaches a server-based system (Fig. 1, 102) wherein client computing devices

103 send PDL print jobs to a network print server 102, which distributes the print jobs to one or

more printing devices 104, 105 and 107. The method of Takahashi requires an extensive

network system with a dedicated server and works outside the typical print system process by

creating PDL files, which are then modified by the server. Claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 7 and 8,

dependent thereon, now comprise the elements of:

> receiving a print task at a print system component, which
> resides on a computing device from which said print task originates;

> receiving user input comprising a cluster printing selection at
> said print system component on said computing device, wherein said
> selection identifies specific printing devices and communicates a
> specific quantity of printing devices;

> combining said print task with said cluster printing selection
> using said print system component on said computing device thereby
> creating driver-dependent data;

transmitting said driver-dependent data to a printer driver, wherein said printer driver resides on said computing device;

creating spool data from said driver-dependent data, using said printer driver on said computing device;

determining, with said print system component on said computing device, portions of said spool data to be distributed to each of said specific printing devices;

These elements are not taught in Takahashi.

The examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,139,085 by Sakaguchi (hereinafter Sakaguchi).

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1 and is, therefore, amended by dependence thereon.

Sakaguchi teaches a method in which a printer group is selected, the capabilities of printers in the group are determined, the print job requirements are determined and a message is displayed informing the user that some printers in the group are not capable of printing the print job, after which a user is given the option to cancel the print job or send the job to the printers that are capable of handling the print job. However, Sakaguchi does not teach the use of a prompt that limits the user's selection of printers to a set of printers that are capable of meeting print job requirements. The method of the current claim limits the user's selection by automatic limitation of the set from which the user selects printers while Sakaguchi allows selection of a

group that will not meet job requirements and then alerts the user and restricts the print job after the selection has already been made. The claim language is specific and is not taught in Sakaguchi.

The examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 by Lobiondo (hereinafter Lobiondo).

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1 and is, therefore, amended by dependence thereon.

Claim 1 and 5 now relate to a single device on which a print task generating application resides. This is not taught in the server-based systems of the prior art.

The examiner has rejected claims 6, 9-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 by Lobiondo (hereinafter Lobiondo).

Claims 1, 11, 18, 23 and 24 are independent claims. Claims 6, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. Claims 12, 13, 15 and 16 depend from claim 11. Claim 19 depends from claim 18.

Independent claims 1, 11, 18, 23 and 24 have been amended. These claims and those dependent thereon now relate to a single computing device on which all system function reside. This device is not taught in the server-based systems of the prior art.

The examiner has rejected claims 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,049,394 by Fukushima (hereinafter Fukushima). Claims 14 and 17 depend

from claim 11 and comprise all the elements therein.

Claim 11 has been amended. These claims and those dependent thereon now relate to a

single computing device on which all system function reside. This device is not taught in the

server-based systems of the prior art.

The examiner has rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,665,082 by Takeoka et al (hereinafter Takeoka). Claim 20 depends from claim 18 and

comprises all the elements therein.

Claim 18 has been amended. These claims and those dependent thereon now relate to a

single computing device on which all system function reside. This device is not taught in the

server-based systems of the prior art.

Takeoka teaches a method of isochronous transfer of image data to a printer and

mentions the term "storage capacity" in relation to a printer's buffer memory. Neither,

nor the combination thereof, teaches: combining cluster print data with print data to

create pre-driver, driver-dependent data; determining portions of spool data to be

distributed; and distributing portions of spool data to multiple printers with parallel

concurrent playback. Neither of these references manipulate spool data to achieve their

functions and, therefore, do not teach these elements. Furthermore, the examiner cites

Takeoka as teaching distribution of a print task based on a printer's disk storage capacity,

however, Takeoka's reference to printer storage capacity refers to the buffer memory

instead of a disk storage capacity. Therefore, this aspect of claim 20 is not taught by the

combination of Takahashi and Takeoka.

The examiner has rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 by Takahashi (hereinafter Takahashi) in view of

U.S. Patent No. 6,891,632 by Schwartz (hereinafter Schwartz). Claims 21 and 22 depend from

claim 18 and comprise all the elements therein.

These claims and those dependent thereon now relate to a single computing device on

which all system functions reside. This device is not taught in the server-based systems of the

prior art.

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and

allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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